Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01043 270817Z ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 SSM-03 MCT-01 SY-05 /093 W -------048668 270956Z /10

R 251005Z FEB 78 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6914 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 1043

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS MILI LE SY

SUBJ: KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON

REF: DAMASCUS 0996

FOR THE RECORD, WE HOPE OUR READERS REALIZE THAT KHADDAM'S REPEATED ASSERTIONS, AS IN REFTEL, THAT SYRIANS IN ADF ARE FOLLOWING LEBANESE ORDERS ARE DISINGENUOUS, TO SAY THE LEAST. SARKIS HAS MADE IT CLEAR ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT HIS NOMINAL STATUS AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THOSE FORCES IS BUT A VERY THIN FIG LEAF. HE EXERCISES NO EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THEM, AS AFTERMATH OF FAYYADIYAH INCIDENT ILLUSTRATED VERY CLEARLY. SAMI KHATIB, THE NOMINAL LEBANESE ADF COMMANDER, HAS BEEN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE HAS ABOUT AS MUCH POWER AS THE POPE IN MECCA.

PARKER

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Subject: KHADDAM DISCUSSES LEBANON

TAGS: PINS, MILI, LE, SY, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM), (SARKIS, ELIAS)

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